

'Zoological Miscellany' as "*Abornis chloronopus* vel *Regulus modestus* auct." Under these circumstances I do not see that Hodgson has the slightest claim to have his name recognized at all.

Phylloscopus occipitalis (Jerdon), fide Seebohm, Ibis, 1877, p. 80.

Phylloscopus trochiloides (Sundev.), apud Seebohm, Ibis, 1877, p. 81.

The former is the spring plumage, and the latter the autumn plumage of *P. occipitalis*, Blyth.

Phylloscopus viridipennis (Blyth), apud Seebohm, Ibis, 1877, p. 82.

Phylloscopus (Reguloides) flavo-olivaceus, Hume, Stray Feath. v. p. 504 (1877).

These are both synonyms of the true *Phylloscopus reguloides* (Blyth).

Phylloscopus presbytis (Müller), from Timor, is probably the *Muscicapa presbytis* of S. Müll. Tydschr. v. Natuurl. Geschied. en Phys. ii. p. 331 (1835), from Sumatra. It is the winter plumage of *P. viridipennis*, Blyth, whose name will stand, since Müller's name is unaccompanied by any description.

XXVI.—Notes on the Ornithology of Ceylon.

By E. L. LAYARD, F.Z.S.

THE last mail put me in possession of Parts I. and II. of Captain Legge's 'Birds of Ceylon,' with which I am especially delighted. It would ill become me to criticize the scientific history of the birds as given by the author; but as a "pioneer," as he calls me, in the field, permit me to add my testimony to the accurate descriptions of the habits of our feathered friends and the localities they inhabit. For the last two or three days I have not been in New Caledonia! Bodily, perhaps, I have; but in spirit I have roamed at will in the "Mookalane" of the south, the scrubby jungles of the west coast, and the trackless forests of the "Wanoy," over the vast

salt plains of the north, transported to the well-remembered haunts in the lovely "Lanka" by Captain Legge's spirited narrative.

So vivid have been my impressions, though some six and twenty years have passed since I left its shores and ceased to work in its fauna, that the "mysterious chambers of the brain" have given up memories long locked up in them, and incidents of collecting, of travelling, of individual specimens even, seem to stand forth one by one, like pictures in dissolving views, one, as it fades, calling up another. Some of these reminiscences may not be useless to the future explorers of Ceylonese ornithology; I therefore jot them down as they occur to me.

Nisaetus fasciatus. The specimen in the Poole Museum is Dr. Templeton's specimen! I now remember it perfectly well. My dear old friend gave it to me, with a few other specimens, when he left the island, and it thus came into the Poole collection, never having been replaced by a better.

My first connexion with the ornithology of Ceylon may well be detailed here.

I arrived in Ceylon in March 1846, and for some time, having no employment, amused my leisure in collecting for my more than friend, Dr. Templeton, who had nursed me through a dangerous illness, and in whom I found a congenial spirit. My chief attraction then was the glorious Lepidoptera of the island; but I always carried a light single-barrelled gun in a strap on my back, to shoot specimens for the Doctor. He himself, like Dr. Kelaart, never shot, but depended on his friends for specimens. I, of course, soon became interested in the "ornis;" and on Templeton's leaving, at the end of 1847 or beginning of 1848, he begged me to take up his correspondence with the late Edward Blyth, then curator of the R. A. S. Calcutta Museum*. He left me his list of the species then known to exist in the island, numbering 183, and Blyth's last letter to answer. From that day almost monthly letters passed between the

* All Ceylonese species therefore (except Kelaart's) described by Blyth after this date were discovered by me.

latter and myself, till I left Ceylon in 1853. The list and the correspondence are still in my possession.

When I left I had brought up the list to 315; deduct from this the novelties added by Kelaart, and some which I think he has wrongly identified (but which are included in my list in the 'Annals and Mag. of Nat. Hist.'), 22 in number, and it leaves me the contributor of 110 species to the Ceylonese ornithology, examples of most of which fell to my own gun.

My collecting-trips never extended to those hill-parts where Dr. Kelaart collected, Newera Ellia &c. I was twice in Kandy, once at "Carolina," an estate near Ambegamoa, and once as far as Gillymallie, *viâ* Ratnapoora. The country from Trincomalie to Hambantotte I never touched; and all the glorious "Park" country and the eastern parts of the island, where Captain Legge procured so many of his novelties, is ground untrodden by me. Thus I missed many fine residents. As for stragglers, my varied experience has shown me that it is very unsafe to doubt the assertion of a fellow worker that he found such or such a bird. A species may even be *common* at one time, and utterly absent at another.

I am glad that the liberality of a wealthy relative has kept together the bulk of my Ceylonese collection at Poole, thus rendering it accessible to workers, and proving the correctness or otherwise of my identifications. Many have asserted (my friend Legge among the number, before he saw the specimens) that I *could not* have found *Falco peregrinus* nesting at Point Pedro. When I penned those "Notes on the Ornithology of Ceylon" in the 'Annals and Mag.' (my first attempt at ornithology), I knew nothing of the vexed questions of geographical distribution &c. I *simply put down what I saw*, and I fearlessly take the full responsibility of every species added by me.

Where I myself identified any thing, it was from comparison with specimens sent from India by Blyth. His catalogue, *with all these marked*, is now before me, lately sent out from England with my other books. I interleaved it, and noted each species as it occurred on the flyleaf, with nest and eggs &c.

Thus stands the record, in its faded ink, of my first *Falco peregrinus*:—"Open plain, Wally, near Point Pedro; remains of Dotterel found in its maw."

Turn we now to *F. chicquera*. I read, "Blyth, Pt. Pedro. Specimen seen near Aleoy, but not procured." "Blyth" and the mark (✓) showed that the example in my collection came from Blyth, so that I had a specimen in hand by which I recognized the bird I saw.

So with *Nisaetus fasciatus*, which I failed to recognize under that name, but which I remembered as soon as I read Legge's description and saw the synonym *A. bonellii*. I find in pencil, "Blyth gives this from Ceylon." There is something rubbed out at the end of the line! a magnifying-glass shows me the words "sed non vidi"!! I rubbed them out, I suspect, when I identified Templeton's specimen.

Perhaps this note, under *Gyps indicus*, may interest Capt. Legge:—"Reported to have existed in Ceylon."

At page 177 of Capt. Legge's book, pt. i., the orthography of my parrot again crops up, I hope for the last time! CALTHROP was my wife's maiden name. She is descended from an ancient Norfolk family of that name, some of whom were Lords Calthrop. There are very ancient monuments to them in Norwich cathedral. How the title in the family lapsed, I do not know; but a Mr. Gough married one of them (a Barbara Calthrop, who, I suppose, wrote her name *Calthorpe**), and obtained a grant of the old title as "Lord Calthorpe."

Cuculus maculatus. This species I wrongly identified, and it is so entered in the Appendix to the 'Prodromus.' In my copy the name is scratched out, and *C. bartletti* written over it. Under this name I described it in my "Notes," and I see Captain Legge introduces it as a synonym of *C. poliocephalus*. The late Mr. G. R. Gray informed me that my specimens were probably new.

I have before me a series of sketches of birds and animals supposed, or known, to exist in Ceylon. They were sent me by Blyth, to be procured if possible. Among them are fac-

* The name on the monuments is spelt as *I* give it, but sometimes with a double *p*.

similes of three of Brown's wretched figures. One of these is thus marked by Blyth:—" *Trogon maculatus*, auct., referred to *Bucco* by Gray; but no *Bucco* has a barred tail. I suspect it is a very bad figure of a small Cuckoo, my *Chrysococcyx smaragdinus*, size of a Nuthatch." I certainly never procured any of the small shining Cuckoos in Ceylon, but should not be at all surprised to hear that one species at least was an occasional visitant.

A second of Brown's figures is thus marked—"Figure a little too highly coloured, upon which *Bucco zealandicus* was founded; said to be two thirds the size of the original."

The third, and last, is a wonderful effort of the artist! A curious grey bird, with *three feathers* in its tail!! Blyth remarks, "This also is the original of some name. It is evidently a *Drymoica*, size of Hedge-Sparrow, probably therefore *D. sylvatica*." These miserable figures offer a singular contrast to the life-like drawings of Mr. Keulemans in the present work, and make me rejoice that a new era has dawned upon us! The wonder is that the old authors could have been satisfied with the awful daubs they offered to the public. Did that "gentle" body believe that such monstrosities "lived and moved and had a being"?

The remaining sketches by the same artist, Mr. Khuleelooddeen, consist of forty-two wonderfully accurate and life-like miniatures of birds and animals (four squirrels and one paradoxure). To give an idea of their size, *Athene castanopterus* is represented most perfectly, but barely an inch long! These figures enabled me instantly to detect *Treron pompadoura* when I rediscovered it at the top of the Balcaddua Pass; and I would here remark that Capt. Legge has fallen into an error at p. 727 (2nd part), in thinking what I wrote about the whistle of *Osmotreron bicincta* was meant to apply to *O. pompadoura*. I was perfectly acquainted with both species, and could, and can now! discriminate between, and imitate, the whistle of the two birds in a moment. I have shot dozens of the former off the fine teak trees that (used to?) exist in the magistracy compound at Negombo when I was acting magistrate there; and in the

Balcaddua Pass, Mr. Charles Curgenven, C.C.S., and I lived on *O. pompadoura* for several days.

Capt. Legge had better expurgate his note on page 727. I see my old note, made at the time, in Blyth's 'Catalogue,' which was my constant companion, runs thus, over against *Treron malabarica* :—" Balcaddua Pass; the Ceylon race is probably '*pompadoura*,' so long missing." Over against *T. bicincta* I have written, "Common in the south, and occasionally met with in the Patchellepally; replaced in the interior by *T. malabarica*. Feeds on berries on high trees. Eye, pupil surrounded by a band of blue, iris pink."

The accidental occurrence of *Cyanecula suecica* (p. 444, pt. 2) is a curious but interesting proof how careful we should be in attributing inaccuracies to our fellow workers in the field of zoology. I am glad, for my credit's sake, that a specimen still remains in the Poole Museum. I probably sent the other specimen to Blyth (for it was one of my early captures), and only retained one, expecting to meet with the bird again, and not knowing that there was any thing remarkable in its being found in Ceylon. I was at Ambegamoa in March 1848. I do not, however, see it noted in the Catalogue, or in any of the many appendixes issued by Blyth. By the way, has Capt. Legge seen these appendixes? They contain many notices of Ceylonese birds sent to Blyth. The first note that catches my eye is on a young male of *Palæornis columboides*, sent to him by me. This seems to have been overlooked by me, and the bird is not included in Capt. Legge's work. Is Blyth's identification correct? He apparently had no doubt of it; for in App. No. 3, published later, he adds "19 (*P. columboides*), Hab. also Ceylon."

Buchanga leucopygialis. There appears to me some confusion under this head. Capt. Legge, I see, includes *B. cærulescens* (L.) as a synonym. Mr. Blyth (*vide* Catalogue) regarded them as distinct. The former says, I only obtained *B. leucopygialis* at Point Pedro, and regarded it as an occasional visitant. I see I wrote (Ann. & Mag.) "A common species about Colombo;" and there, and in my notes in Blyth's

Catalogue, I have *B. cærulescens* from the Jaffna peninsula (including Point Pedro) only. *B. longicaudata* I found abundant at Jaffna, and my remarks as to its habit of perching on the backs of cattle are strictly correct. *All these species were sent to Blyth and identified by him*, and the specimens should be in Calcutta.

Phylloscopus viridanus. Under this head the author states that he introduces the bird into the Ceylon list under my authority, and that I allude to a species *Phyllopneuste montanus*, Blyth, no such species being in existence. If Capt. Legge will refer to Mr. Blyth's catalogue, page 183, he will find Blyth gives the genus PHYLLOPNEUSTE; at page 184 he makes PHYLLOSCOPUS a *subgenus*, and in the next page (No. 1105) he will see the bird to which I referred, dropping the subgenus, "*Ph. montanus*, Blyth, J. A. S. xviii. Hab. Himalaya." *Ph. viridanus* follows as No. 1106. I have bracketed them together with this note, "Pt. Pedro, common among low thick bushes; irides dark hair-brown." Blyth identified *all* my Point-Pedro birds; so here is one, if it is a good species, which has been overlooked by Capt. Legge.

Cinnyris lotenius. The writer quotes from Kelaart's 'Prodromus,' Cat. p. 119, a stupid error of the Doctor's, attributing to me the name of "*letonia*." I have before often pointed out that, in the matter of ornithology, Kelaart was a mere copyist. He dreaded the sight of a gun with a peculiar nervous horror, attributable, I suppose, to the terrible affliction to which he was subject. I supplied him with all my lists and numerous specimens, not only of birds, but of many mammals and reptiles new to him, and it was arranged that we should bring out a second part of the 'Prodromus' (then in MS. only), which should consist of the Birds, to be written by me. Third and fourth parts were also shadowed out, to contain the Lepidoptera and terrestrial Mollusca, of which I had large collections (see preface to 'Prodromus,' p. vi). To my intense astonishment and, I must own, annoyance, Kelaart issued his 'Prodromus' without cutting out part ii. (p. 91 *et seq.*), as agreed upon! He used my lists without

any reference to me, as the absurd error above quoted shows ; and his generalizations are as full of mistakes “as an egg’s full of meat !”

The Doctor having thus broken faith, I, on my return to England, published my “Notes” in the ‘Annals and Magazine of Natural History,’ at the urgent request of my lamented friends, Strickland, Sir W. Jardine, and the brothers Gray, who kindly said the information I possessed was too valuable to be lost.

Cinnyris minima. This species was included in the miniature figures already alluded to, and was the subject of special search, being required by my dear old friend Blyth. I can well remember my delight when I found it (in my time not at all uncommon) round Point Pedro, whence I immediately sent it to Blyth, who confirmed my identification.

I see Cuming’s name frequently alluded to, in the work under discussion, as the authority for certain birds from Ceylon. I presume this is my old friend the late Hugh Cuming, of conchological fame. Was he ever in Ceylon? I doubt it ; and if my memory does not play me very false, he himself told me he never had been there. He was well known as a dealer, and purchased other things besides shells, if they came together. He paid no attention to birds ; and I should be very loth to accept a “habitat” on the ground that Cuming had stated it.

With these remarks I stop, for the present, awaiting the arrival of the last portion of this valuable addition to our ornithological literature.

Noumea, January 1880.

XXVII.—*On the Habits of the Honey-bird* (Indicator).

By E. F. SANDEMAN.

[It is always of interest to have accounts of such strange phenomena as those presented to us in the habits of the Honey-guides confirmed, however well known they may be. We have therefore no hesitation in transferring to the pages